

August 28, 2014

Greetings new choral students,

I am so glad to have you and your family as a part of our choral community at Stuart. The choral program has seen steady growth for the last 5 years, and has become an important part of the Stuart community as a whole.

At this very busy time of year I'd like to provide you with the basics in advance ---other details will come, but this is the vital stuff! Please don't hesitate to email me at eeeiting@fcps.edu if you have questions pertaining to this or other choral department information.

Best Regards,
Emi Eiting, Choral Director

TAG DAY

Our first major event for All parents & students (*please insure this is on your calendar!*)

Tag Day is the most important fundraiser for the JEB Stuart High School music department, benefitting all students participating in Band, Chorus and Orchestra. It takes place every September to form a strong base for the yearly expenses of uniforms, instrument purchase and repair, parades and performances, scholarships, guest clinicians, and participation fees in competitions and festivals.

This long-standing tradition of JEB Stuart High School will take place this year on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Groups of four or six will depart with a volunteer parent driver to go door-to-door in pairs, visiting homes in the Stuart neighborhoods. All neighbors are given a calendar of Stuart music performances, and donors to Stuart receive a tax-deductible receipt for their records.

WHY IS TAG DAY SO IMPORTANT?

Tag Day pays for a lot of things that the county does not pay for:

It pays in part for the varied uniforms worn by the chorus, band and orchestra students, and the maintenance of all of these. It pays for the fancy plumes on the marching band hats.

It pays for sheet music and folders. It might also pay for new instrument cases.

It pays for the color guard flags and the banners.

It pays for the additional instructors and visiting clinicians who share their talents with our student musicians.

It helps to pay the unexpected costs that arise from the Spring Trip.

A successful Tag Day ensures that the events planned for the music department throughout the school year can really happen. A successful Tag Day helps all chorus, orchestra, band students, marching band and color guard members.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

If you're a student you'll show up at approximately 8am on Saturday, 9/13 and you'll head out with a group for donations. If you're a parent we need your help driving groups, counting donations, coordinating food and much more. Please use the link

below to volunteer in whichever area you best equipped to help! You will receive this link via email as well in the coming week.

<http://www.jooners.com/guest?l=fc95f10f-6178-4ee6-8be3-1920ddde6136>

CHOIR FEE

There is a \$50 choir fee for both new and returning students to J.E.B. Stuart High School choir. This fee covers uniform purchase (both formal and casual) and uniform maintenance. These funds may also be used to help subsidize the cost of a piano accompanist.

Please make checks payable to the **JEB Stuart Choral Boosters**, NOT to Stuart High School. If you are on *free lunch* please let Mrs. Eiting know, and the fee will be waived. If you are on *reduced lunch* then there is a reduced fee of \$25. Again, if this applies to you please let Mrs. Eiting know prior to the fee due date.

Fees are due by than September 23rd, which is back to school night.

CO-CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT

(please pay special attention to this if you plan to participate in ANY extra-curricular activities including sports, clubs, cheer and many others)

All students in music classes are required to participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day. This is stated in the Program of Studies (POS) for orchestral music and is considered a co-curricular requirement, and will be graded as a regular school day rehearsal. Students participating in extra-curricular activities are not excused from orchestra rehearsals and performances outside of the school day. Students involved in other school-sponsored activities will be allowed to share their time between orchestra and other activities. A reasonable accommodation will be agreed upon by the coach/sponsor, the orchestra director, and the director of student activities BEFORE the conflict arises. If the student does not inform the teacher and coach/sponsor of the conflict at least TWO weeks in advance so that an accommodation may be discussed, absence from the orchestra activity will be considered unexcused. In general, a performance, match, or game takes precedence over a practice or general rehearsal.

THE CHORAL BOOSTERS (for parents!)

Congratulations parents! If your child is in choir this year then you are automatically a J.E.B. Stuart Choral Booster parent. This is a great team of parents who support the many activities we do throughout the year because they recognize how important a robust choral program is to our kids. Our first booster meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00pm in the choral room. Please mark your calendars to attend and look for further details soon via email.

For complete calendar and updates please bookmark our website www.stuartchoralboosters.blogspot.com



We are pleased to welcome you and your family to J.E.B. Stuart High School Choral Department. We have an exciting year planned. Here is some important information regarding this course that will help you be successful this school year.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Select Vocal Ensemble: Intermediate/Advanced group made up of women and men grades 10-12. Continued focus on fundamentals of music including posture, correct use of the vocal mechanism, breathing, and music literacy. More advanced sight-reading to include minor intervals, chromatics and compound meter. Perform at all concerts, District Choral Assessment, home football games, Broadway Desserts, graduation, back to school night, school board meetings and other events with ample notice.

Select Women's Ensemble: Intermediate/Advanced group made up of women grades 10-12. Continued focus on fundamentals of music education including posture, correct use of the vocal mechanism, breathing, music literacy. Literature from a broad range of styles and genres to include three and four parts. Perform at all concerts, festival, Broadway Desserts, District Choral Assessment and other events with ample notice.

Women's Concert Choir: Beginning/Intermediate made up of women grade 9-12. Focus on fundamentals of music including correct posture, breathing, reading music. Emphasis on music literacy. Will sing music (sacred-secular) of all styles and genres. Two & Three part repertoire. They perform at all department choral concerts, District Choral Assessment, and on Broadway Desserts.

Men's Choir: - Beginning/Intermediate extracurricular group made up of men grades 9-12. Focus on fundamentals of music, music literacy, vocal technique. This group sings a broad variety of repertoire, and performs at all choral department concerts as well as on Broadway Desserts and at District Choral Assessment.

All Fairfax County Music Programs conform to the same Program of Studies: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/music.shtml>

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Quarter 1: (starting point will vary by level)

Fundamentals of sound and tone production during warm-up and basic exercises

Perform music sight-reading at beginning level to include skips of a M2, M3 and P4.

Analyze, count and perform rhythms appropriate for ensemble level. Group performance assessment in October.

Quarter 2:

Further development of tone production during warm-up, basic exercises and sheet music

Demonstrate knowledge of Circle of fifths-major scales (sharps and flats)

Perform music sight-reading at beginning level to include skips up to a M6.

Analyze, count and perform appropriate level rhythms with subdivision

Group performance assessment in December & January.

Quarter 3:

Further development of consistent characteristic sound and tone production

Circle of fifths--- minor key addition; Analyze, count, perform and sight-read advanced level rhythms with subdivision

Group performance assessment in February/State performance assessment in March

Quarter 4:

Consistent sound and tone production throughout total instrument range ; Major scales from memory

Analyze and perform advanced level rhythms with strong subdivision and musical awareness

Group performance assessment in June

MATERIALS

Pencils, black chorus folder

Water bottle (optional)

Books (but not limited to): Music Theory book, Sheet Music (as many as 8 octavos per quarter)

GRADING DESIGN

The course grade is made up of four quarter grades and a Final Exam. These five grades may be weighted differently based on the amount or importance of content covered in each. We also understand that throughout each quarter, students may learn at different speeds and in different ways. Therefore, this course does have a system in place for students to possibly improve their grades. All details are included below:

- Fairfax County Grading Scale:

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
FCPS Scale	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	64-66	below 64
Quality Points	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.0

Grading Criteria:

40% Summative assessment

30% Formative assessment

30% Rehearsal Preparation & Classroom Engagement

We will use balanced assessments, including:

- Summative:
 - Concerts and performances
 - Festival Evaluations
 - Quarterly comprehensive skills test (aural or written)
- Formative
 - Performance assessments designed to evaluate student progress and develop proficiency
 - Self-assessments of progress towards mastering concert music and other musical concepts
 - Peer feedback and reflection on group and individual progress
- Rehearsal Preparation & Classroom Engagement (focus on tone, notes, rhythm, expression and fluidity)
 - Warm-up exercises to strengthen established skills and prepare for the daily lesson objective (i.e. rhythmic reading drills, pitch exercises, etc.)
 - As-needed diagnostic run-throughs to identify areas of performance weakness
 - Sight-reading/singing exercises to determine direction of instruction

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Student will use online resources to keep up with performances requirements, expected evaluations, and other chorus requirements. Available resources include the Stuart Chorus website (www.stuartchoralboosters.blogspot.com) , Blackboard, Charms Office (www.charmsoffice.com) .
- Student will show effort and perform at a high level during each class
- Student will be expected to maintain music in concert performance condition
- Students will be expected to practice outside of class time
- Students will be expected to revisit work when not mastered
- Students will work toward a consistent characteristic and mature sound
- Students are expected to understand and follow the attendance procedures of SHS.
- Students are expected to adhere to the policy set forth in the Fairfax County co-curricular statement (see below)

UNIFORM RENTAL & CHORAL ENSEMBLE FEE

- **\$50 for annual choral ensemble fee.** Fee covers uniform rental and maintenance. It also subsidizes a choral accompanist. Please make checks payable to J.E.B. Stuart High School.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Daily attendance in all classes and return times is imperative for academic success throughout each school year.
- Arrive to class before the bell rings and participating actively in learning each day.
- Each day of an excused absence affords one school day of make-up work opportunity.

Absences and Late Work Policy

- Each unexcused tardy and unexcused absence means missed instruction, loss of work time, and ultimately leads to lower grades. These will lead to parent phone calls, detentions, and referrals as per school policy.
- Excused absence from a performance/rehearsal – students have one week upon return to school to complete the make-up assignment (i.e. performance of concert repertoire, or written evaluation of performance)
Excused absences – family death/hospitalization and personal illness
All other absences due to work, routine appointments, babysitting and transportation will be marked as unexcused
- Unexcused absence from a performance - students have one week from the missed performance to complete the make-up assignment; the maximum grade earned will be a 50%

HONOR CODE

All Stuart students must take the Raider Pledge:

As a J.E.B. Stuart student, I pledge to be: honest, trustworthy, fair, respectful, and responsible in all academic pursuits.

All consequences for violating the Raider Pledge will be dealt with in accordance with the Stuart Honor Code. For a full description of the honor code, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/StuartHS/pages/about/honor-code.html>.

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Emi Eiting, eeeiting@fcps.edu, 703-824-3970
After School/Office Hours by Appointment

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